

Identity Theft Victim's Packet

Information and Instructions

This packet is to be completed once you have contacted the El Paso Police Department and obtained a police report number related to your identity theft case. You may obtain a police report by calling Police Call Takers at 915-832-4400, or you may log onto https://www.elpasotexas.gov/police/online_report.asp. Please keep track of your report number as creditors, financial institutions and credit reporting agencies will ask for it.

My El Paso Police	Department Report is:
#	

This packet contains information to assist you in the correction of your credit and to help ensure that you are not responsible for the debts incurred by the identity thief. In addition, this packet includes information that will allow you to obtain financial records related to the fraudulent accounts and provide those records to law enforcement, without which we cannot conduct an investigation for prosecution. We recognize that some victims are only interested in the correction of their credit and do not necessarily wish for prosecution; therefore, we request that you only submit this packet to the El Paso Police Department if you desire prosecution. It is important to understand that in the event that a suspect is identified and arrested and the case proceeds to court, you as the victim would mostly likely be required to appear and testify.

Completion of dispute letters that provide us with necessary documentation is required before we can begin investigating your case for prosecution. In identity theft cases it is difficult to identify the suspect(s) as they often use inaccurate information such as addresses and phone numbers. Often, the cell phones that identity thieves use are non-traceable prepaid phones or opened with fraudulent information. Frequently the investigator cannot find evidence to prove who actually used the victim's name and/or personal information over the phone or internet. Furthermore, when you report your identity crime to the El Paso Police Department, all of the relevant information from your case is entered into our database which will allow us to cross-reference your report with potential suspects who are involved in or arrested on other cases.

NOTE:

- If you suspect someone is using your personal information for employment and there is no evidence of other identity fraud, please see the section for contacting the Social Security Administration under Additional Useful Information. Do not contact the employer directly as they may warn the suspect employee. It may not be necessary to complete this packet.
- If your name and/or information is used by someone else to avoid a traffic ticket or any criminal prosecution, please contact the agency investigating the original crime. It may not be necessary to complete this packet. Page 2 of 5 Identity Theft Victim's Packet.doc

Helpful Hints:

- Remember that each creditor has different policies and procedures for correcting fraudulent accounts.
- Do not provide originals and be sure to keep copies of everything you provide to the creditors or companies involved in the identity theft.
- Write down all dates, times and the names of individuals you speak to regarding the identity theft and correction of your credit.

Step 1: Contact your bank and other credit card issuers.

- If the theft involved existing bank accounts (checking or savings accounts as well as credit or debit card) you should do the following:
- Close the account that was used fraudulently or put stop payments on all outstanding checks that might have been written without your knowledge.
- Close all credit card accounts that were used fraudulently.
- Close any account accessible by debit card if it has been accessed fraudulently.
- Open up new accounts protected with a secret password or personal identification number (PIN) If the identity theft involved the creation of new bank accounts, you should do the following:
- Call the involved financial institution and notify them of the identity theft.
- They will likely require additional notification in writing. (see step 4)

Step 2: Contact all three (3) major credit reporting bureaus.

First request the credit bureaus place a "Fraud Alert" on your file. A fraud alert will put a notice on your credit report that you have been the victim of identity theft. Merchants and financial institutions may opt to contact you directly before

any new credit is taken out in your name. Some states allow for a Security Freeze in which a PIN can be designated on your credit file and subsequently the PIN must then be given in order for credit to be extended. Ask the credit reporting bureaus if your state is participating in the Security Freeze Program.

www.scamsafe.com – provides useful information related to identity theft and indicates which states participate in the Security Freeze program.
 www.annualcreditreport.com – provides one free credit report, per credit bureau agency, per year, with subsequent credit reports available at a nominal fee.
 The following is a list of the three (3) major credit reporting bureaus for victims to report fraud:

Equifax TransUnion Experian

Consumer Fraud Division Fraud Victim Assistance Dept Nat. Consumer Assist 800-525-6285 800-680-7289 888-397-3742

 800-525-6285
 800-680-7289
 888-397-3742

 P.O. Box 740256
 P.O. Box 6790
 P.O. Box 9530

 Atlanta, GA 30374
 Fullerton, CA 92834
 Allen, TX 75013

Step 3: File a report with the Federal Trade Commission.

You can go on-line to file an identity theft complaint with the FTC www.consumer.gov/idtheft.com or by calling 1-877-IDTHEFT.

Step 4: Contact creditors involved in the Identity Theft by phone and in writing.

This step involves contacting all the companies or institutions that provided credit or opened new accounts for the suspect or suspects. Some examples include banks, mortgage companies, utility companies, telephone companies, cell phone companies, etc. Provide the creditors with the completed Identity Theft Affidavit (some may require that you use their own affidavit), Letter of Dispute, and a copy of the FACTA Law.

FTC Identity Theft Affidavit

A copy of the FTC Identity Theft Affidavit can be found at the end of this packet. This is the same affidavit that the FTC makes available to victims of identity theft. The affidavit requests information regarding you as the victim, how the fraud occurred, law enforcement's actions, documentation checklist and Fraudulent Account Statement. NOTE. Some creditors, financial institutions, or collection agencies have their own affidavit that you may have to complete.

Letters of Dispute

Sample copies of the Letters of Dispute can also be found at the end of this packet. This letter needs to be completed for every creditor involved in the identity theft. The letter of dispute should contain information related to the fraudulent account(s), your dispute of the account(s), and your request for the information to be corrected. In addition, the letter should reference FACTA and

make a request for copies of any and all records related to the fraudulent accounts be provided to you and made available to the El Paso Police Department.

FACTA Law

A portion of the FACTA Law can also be found at the end of this packet. As previously discussed in this packet, FACTA allows for you to obtain copies of any and all records related to the fraudulent accounts. You are then permitted to provide law enforcement with copies of the records you received related to the fraudulent accounts; thereby allowing us to bypass the sometimes difficult process of obtaining subpoenas for the very same information. It also allows you to request the information be made available to the El Paso Police Department. We have found it useful to provide a copy of the FACTA Law with the submission of the Identity Theft Affidavit and Letter of Dispute to the individual creditors.

Step 5: Submit the Identity Theft Affidavit and copies of all information and records obtained from the creditors with regard to the fraudulent accounts to:

El Paso Police Department – Financial Crimes Unit 911 N. Raynor El Paso, TX. 79903 915-564-7130

To avoid confusion and to ensure that all items are forwarded to the assigned detective, we request that you submit everything at once and if possible do not send items separately. Be sure to reference your police report number on all items submitted. The information can be hand delivered or mailed. *Please remember that some victims are only interested in the correction of their credit and do not necessarily wish for prosecution. Therefore, we request that you only submit this packet to El Paso Police Department if you desire prosecution and would be willing and available to appear and testify should a suspect be identified and arrested.*

Additional Useful Information -

Other entities you may want to report your identity theft to:

- Post Office If you suspect that your mail has been stolen or diverted with a false change-of-address request, contact your local postal inspector. You can obtain the address and telephone number of the postal inspector for your area at United States Postal Service website: http://www.usps.com/ncsc/locators/find-is.html or by calling 800-275-8777.
- Social Security Administration If you suspect that someone is using your social security number to obtain employment, contact the Social Security Administration's fraud hotline at 1-800-269-0271. Order a copy of your Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement (PEBES) to check the

- accuracy of your work history on file with the Social Security Administration. You can obtain a PEBES application at your local Social Security office or at http://www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-7004.pdf.
- State Department If your passport has been stolen, notify the passport
 office in writing. You can obtain additional information from the State
 Department's website: http://travel.state.gov/passport/lost/lost_849.HTML
- If you are contacted by a collection agency about a debt for which you are not responsible, immediately notify them that you did not create the debt and that you are a victim of identity theft. Follow up with the collection agency and creditor in writing and include a copy of your police report, ID Theft Affidavit, Letter of Dispute and a copy of the FACTA Law.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE ID THEFT AFFIDAVIT

To make certain that you do not become responsible for any debts incurred by an identity thief, you must prove to each of the companies where accounts were opened in your name that you didn't create the debt. The ID Theft Affidavit was developed by a group of credit grantors, consumer advocates, and attorneys at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for this purpose. Importantly, this affidavit is only for use where a new account was opened in your name. If someone made unauthorized charges to an existing account, call the company for instructions.

While many companies accept this affidavit, others require that you submit more or different forms. Before you send the affidavit, contact each company to find out if they accept it. If they do not accept the ID Theft Affidavit, ask them what information and/or documentation they require.

You may not need the ID Theft Affidavit to absolve you of debt resulting from identity theft if you obtain an Identity Theft Report. We suggest you consider obtaining an Identity Theft Report where a new account was opened in your name. An Identity Theft Report can be used to (1) permanently block fraudulent information from appearing on your credit report; (2) ensure that debts do not reappear on your credit reports; (3) prevent a company from continuing to collect debts or selling the debt to others for collection; and (4) obtain an extended fraud alert.

The ID Theft Affidavit may be required by a company in order for you to obtain applications or other transaction records related to the theft of your identity. These records may help you prove that you are a victim. For example, you may be able to show that the signature on an application is not yours. These documents also may contain information about the identity thief that is valuable to law enforcement.

This affidavit has two parts:

- Part One the ID Theft Affidavit is where you report general information about yourself and the theft.
- Part Two the Fraudulent Account Statement is where you describe the fraudulent account(s) opened in your name. Use a separate Fraudulent Account Statement for each company you need to write to.

When you send the affidavit to the companies, attach copies (NOT originals) of any supporting documents (for example, driver's license or police report). Before submitting your affidavit, review the disputed account(s) with family members or friends who may have information about the account(s) or access to them.

Complete this affidavit as soon as possible. Many creditors ask that you send it within two weeks. Delays on your part could slow the investigation.

Be as accurate and complete as possible. You may choose not to provide some of the information requested. However, incorrect or incomplete information will slow the process of investigating your claim and absolving the debt. Print clearly.

When you have finished completing the affidavit, mail a copy to each creditor, bank, or company that provided the thief with the unauthorized credit, goods, or services you describe. Attach a copy of the Fraudulent Account Statement with information only on accounts opened at the institution to which you are sending the packet, as well as any other supporting documentation you are able to provide.

Send the appropriate documents to each company by certified mail, return receipt requested, so you can prove that it was received. The companies will review your claim and send you a written response telling you the outcome of their investigation. Keep a copy of everything you submit.

If you are unable to complete the affidavit, a legal guardian or someone with power of attorney may complete it for you. Except as noted, the information you provide will be used only by the company to process your affidavit, investigate the events you report, and help stop further fraud. If this affidavit is requested in a lawsuit, the company might have to provide it to the requesting party. Completing this affidavit does not guarantee that the identity thief will be prosecuted or that the debt will be cleared.

If you haven't already done so, report the fraud to the following organizations:

- Any one of the nationwide consumer reporting companies to place a fraud alert on your credit report. Fraud alerts can help prevent an identity thief from opening any more accounts in your name. The company you call is required to contact the other two, which will place an alert on their versions of your report, too.
 - Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; www.equifax.com
 - Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742); www.experian.com
 - TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289; www.transunion.com

In addition, once you have placed a fraud alert, you're entitled to order one free credit report from each of the three consumer reporting companies, and, if you ask, they will display only the last four digits of your Social Security number on your credit reports.

2. The security or fraud department of each company where you know, or believe, accounts have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Close the accounts. Follow up in writing, and include copies (NOT originals) of supporting documents. It's important to notify credit card companies and banks in writing. Send your letters by certified mail, return receipt requested, so you can document what the company received and when. Keep a file of your correspondence and enclosures.

When you open new accounts, use new Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and passwords. Avoid using easily available information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your Social Security number, your phone number, or a series of consecutive numbers.

- 3. Your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place. Provide a copy of your ID Theft Complaint filed with the FTC (see below), to be incorporated into the police report. Get a copy of the police report or, at the very least, the number of the report. It can help you deal with creditors who need proof of the crime. If the police are reluctant to take your report, ask to file a "Miscellaneous Incidents" report, or try another jurisdiction, like your state police. You also can check with your state Attorney General's office to find out if state law requires the police to take reports for identity theft. Check the Blue Pages of your telephone directory for the phone number or check www.naag.org for a list of state Attorneys General.
- 4. The Federal Trade Commission. By sharing your identity theft complaint with the FTC, you will provide important information that can help law enforcement officials across the nation track down identity thieves and stop them. The FTC also can refer victims' complaints to other government agencies and companies for further action, as well as investigate companies for violations of laws that the FTC enforces.

You can file a complaint online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. If you don't have Internet access, call the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline, toll-free: 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338); TTY: 1-866-653-4261; or write: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. When you file an ID Theft Complaint with the FTC online, you will be given the option to print a copy of your ID Theft Complaint. You should bring a copy of the printed ID Theft Complaint with you to the police to be incorporated into your police report. The ID Theft Complaint, in conjunction with the police report, can create an Identity Theft Report that will help you recover more quickly. The ID Theft Complaint provides the supporting details necessary for an Identity Theft Report, which go beyond the details of a typical police report.

DO NOT SEND AFFIDAVIT TO THE FTC OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY

	5:	
Name	Phone number	Page I

ID Theft Affidavit

ctin	n Information				
(1)	My full legal name is				
		(First)	(Middle)	(Last)	(Jr., Sr., III)
(2)	(If different from above	e) When the even	ts described in this	affidavit took	place, I was knowr
	(First)	(Middle)	(Last)		(Jr., Sr., III)
(3)	My date of birth is	(day/month/y	/ear)		
(4)	My Social Security nur	mber is			
(5)	My driver's license or	identification ca	rd state and numbe	er are	
(6)	My current address is				
	City		State	Zip	Code
(7)	I have lived at this add	ress since(ma	onth/year)		
(8)	(If different from above	e) When the even	ts described in this	affidavit took	place, my address
	City		State	Zi _l	p Code
(9)	I lived at the address i	n Item 8 from		until	
			(month/year)		(month/year)
10)	My daytime telephone	e number is ())		
	My evening telephone	e number is ())		

How the Fraud Occurred	
Check all that apply for items 11 - 17:	
(11) 🗖 I did not authorize anyone to use my name credit, loans, goods or services described in	•
(12) Idid not receive any benefit, money, goods in this report.	or services as a result of the events described
(13) ☐ My identification documents (for example, Social Security card; etc.) were ☐ stolen ☐	
	e following person(s) used my information rth, existing account numbers, Social Security entification documents to get money, credit,
Name (if known)	Name (if known)
Address (if known)	Address (if known)
Phone number(s) (if known)	Phone number(s) (if known)
Additional information (if known)	Additional information (if known)
(15) I do NOT know who used my information of credit, loans, goods or services without my	,
(16) Additional comments: (For example, description formation were used or how the identity	•
(Attach additional pages	as necessary)

Name ______ Phone number _____ Page 2

Victir	n's Law Enforcement Actions		
	neck one) I 🗖 am 🗖 am not willi mmitted this fraud.	ng to assist in the prosecution of the pers	son(s) who
en		norizing the release of this information to ng them in the investigation and prosecut	
to rep	the police or other law enforcemen	ve not reported the events described in the agency. The police did did not did the police or other law enforcement age	write a
(/	Agency #1)	(Officer/Agency personnel taking report)	
([Date of report)	(Report number, if any)	
(F	Phone number)	(email address, if any)	
(/	Agency #2)	(Officer/Agency personnel taking report)	
(1)	Date of report)	(Report number, if any)	
(F	Phone number)	(email address, if any)	
	mentation Checklist		
		on you are able to provide to the compan ne affidavit before sending it to the compa	
(20) 🗖	license, state-issued ID card or you	ed photo-identification card (for example r passport). If you are under 16 and don't of your birth certificate or a copy of your c nd place of residence.	have a
(21) 🗖		the disputed bill occurred, the loan was me, a rental/lease agreement in your name, bill).	

Name ______Phone number ______Page 3

Name		Phone number P	age 4
(22) 🗖	obtain a report or report number from the	plice or sheriff's department. If you are unable police, please indicate that in Item 19. So not a copy of the report. You may want to	me
Signa	ature		
affidav or the i agenci knowir constit	rit is true, correct, and complete and made information it contains may be made availabl es for such action within their jurisdiction a ingly making any false or fraudulent stateme	elief, all the information on and attached to in good faith. I also understand that this aff e to federal, state, and/or local law enforcems they deem appropriate. I understand that ent or representation to the government mar federal, state, or local criminal statutes, and tor both.	idavit nent nay
(signatu	ure)	(date signed)	
(Notary)		
	with each company. Creditors sometimes ness (non-relative) sign below that you co	require notarization. If they do not, please mpleted and signed this affidavit.]	have
Witne	SS:		
(signatu	ire)	(printed name)	
(date)		(telephone number)	

Name	Phone number	F	age !	5
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Fraudulent Account Statement

Completing this Statement

- Make as many copies of this page as you need. Complete a separate page for each company you're notifying and only send it to that company. Include a copy of your signed affidavit.
- List only the account(s) you're disputing with the company receiving this form. **See the example below**.
- If a collection agency sent you a statement, letter or notice about the fraudulent account, attach a copy of that document (**NOT** the original).

I declare (check all that apply):

As a result of the event(s) described in the ID Theft Affidavit, the following account(s) was/were opened at your company in my name without my knowledge, permission or authorization using my personal information or identifying documents:

Creditor Name/Address (the company that opened the account or provided the goods or services)	Account Number	Type of unauthorized credit/goods/services provided by creditor (if known)	Date issued or opened (if known)	Amount/Value provided (the amount charged or the cost of the goods/services)
Example Example National Bank 22 Main Street Columbus, Ohio 22722	01234567-89	auto loan	01/05/2002	\$25,500.00

During the time of the accounts described above, I had the following account open with	n your company:
Billing name	
Billing address	_
Account number	_

Sample Dispute Letter for Existing Accounts

Date
Your Name
Your Address
Your City, State Zip Code
Your Account Number

Name of Creditor Billing Inquiries Address City, State, Zip Code

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to dispute a fraudulent (charge or debit) on my account in the amount of _______. I am a victim of Identity Theft, and I did not make this (charge or debit). I am requesting that the (charge be removed or the debit reinstated), that any finance and other charges related to the fraudulent amount be credited, as well, and that I receive an accurate statement.

Enclosed are copies of (use this sentence to describe any enclosed information, such as a police report or Identity Theft Affidavit) supporting my position. Please investigate this matter and correct the fraudulent (charge or debit) as soon as possible.

In addition, pursuant to FACTA, as a victim of Identity Theft I am requesting that you provide me with copies of any and all applications and business transaction records related to the fraudulent account(s). The copies of the records can be (mailed to me at the address listed above or faxed to the number listed below). In addition, please make these records available to the El Paso Police Department upon their request.

Sincerely, Your Name

Enclosures: (List what you are enclosing.)

Sample Blocking Letter – Consumer Reporting Companies

Date
Your Name
Your Address
Your City, State Zip Code
Your Account Number

Complaint Department
Name of Consumer Reporting Company
Address
City, State, Zip Code

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a victim of identity theft. I am writing to request that you block the following fraudulent information in my file. This information does not relate to any transaction that I have made. The items are also circled on the attached copy of the report I received. (Identify item(s) to be blocked by name of source, such as creditors or tax court, and identify type of items such as credit account, judgment, etc.)

Enclosed is a copy of the law enforcement report regarding my identity theft. Please let me know if you need any other information from me to block this information on my credit report.

In addition, pursuant to FACTA, as a victim of Identity Theft I am requesting that you provide me with copies of any and all applications and business transaction records related to the fraudulent account(s). The copies of the records can be (mailed to me at the address listed above or faxed to the number listed below). In addition, please make these records available to the El Paso Police Department upon their request.

Sincerely, Your Name

Enclosures: (List what you are enclosing.)

Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003

PUBLIC LAW 108-159 DECEMBER 4, 2003

SEC. 151. SUMMARY OF RIGHTS OF IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS.

- (a) IN GENERAL-
 - (1) SUMMARY- Section 609 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681g) is amended by adding at the end the following:
- '(d) SUMMARY OF RIGHTS OF IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS-
 - `(1) IN GENERAL- The Commission, in consultation with the Federal banking agencies and the National Credit Union Administration, shall prepare a model summary of the rights of consumers under this title with respect to the procedures for remedying the effects of fraud or identity theft involving credit, an electronic fund transfer, or an account or transaction at or with a financial institution or other creditor.
 - `(2) SUMMARY OF RIGHTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION- Beginning 60 days after the date on which the model summary of rights is prescribed in final form by the Commission pursuant to paragraph (1), if any consumer contacts a consumer reporting agency and expresses a belief that the consumer is a victim of fraud or identity theft involving credit, an electronic fund transfer, or an account or transaction at or with a financial institution or other creditor, the consumer reporting agency shall, in addition to any other action that the agency may take, provide the consumer with a summary of rights that contains all of the information required by the Commission under paragraph (1), and information on how to contact the Commission to obtain more detailed information.
- `(e) INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS-
 - `(1) IN GENERAL- For the purpose of documenting fraudulent transactions resulting from identity theft, not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a request from a victim in accordance with paragraph (3), and subject to verification of the identity of the victim and the claim of identity theft in accordance with paragraph (2), a business entity that has provided credit to, provided for consideration products, goods, or services to, accepted payment from, or otherwise entered into a commercial transaction for consideration with, a person who has allegedly made unauthorized use of the means of identification of the victim, shall provide a copy of application and business transaction records in the control of the business entity, whether maintained by the business entity or by another person on behalf of the business entity, evidencing any transaction alleged to be a result of identity theft to-
 - (A) the victim;
 - `(B) any Federal, State, or local government law enforcement agency or officer specified by the victim in such a request; or
 - `(C) any law enforcement agency investigating the identity theft and authorized by the victim to take receipt of records provided under this subsection.
 - `(2) VERIFICATION OF IDENTITY AND CLAIM- Before a business entity provides any information under paragraph (1), unless the business entity, at its discretion, otherwise has a high degree of confidence that it knows the

identity of the victim making a request under paragraph (1), the victim shall provide to the business entity--

- `(A) as proof of positive identification of the victim, at the election of the business entity--
 - `(i) the presentation of a government-issued identification card;
 - `(ii) personally identifying information of the same type as was provided to the business entity by the unauthorized person; or `(iii) personally identifying information that the business entity typically requests from new applicants or for new transactions, at the time of the victim's request for information, including any documentation described in clauses (i) and (ii); and
- `(B) as proof of a claim of identity theft, at the election of the business entity--
 - `(i) a copy of a police report evidencing the claim of the victim of identity theft; and
 - `(ii) a properly completed--
 - `(I) copy of a standardized affidavit of identity theft developed and made available by the Commission; or `(II) an affidavit of fact that is acceptable to the business entity for that purpose.
- `(3) PROCEDURES- The request of a victim under paragraph (1) shall--
 - (A) be in writing;
 - `(B) be mailed to an address specified by the business entity, if any; and
 - `(C) if asked by the business entity, include relevant information about any transaction alleged to be a result of identity theft to facilitate compliance with this section including--
 - `(i) if known by the victim (or if readily obtainable by the victim), the date of the application or transaction; and `(ii) if known by the victim (or if readily obtainable by the victim), any other identifying information such as an account or transaction number.
- `(4) NO CHARGE TO VICTIM- Information required to be provided under paragraph (1) shall be so provided without charge.
- `(5) AUTHORITY TO DECLINE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION- A business entity may decline to provide information under paragraph (1) if, in the exercise of good faith, the business entity determines that--
 - (A) this subsection does not require disclosure of the information;
 - (A) after reviewing the information provided pursuant to paragraph (2), the business entity does not have a high degree of confidence in knowing the true identity of the individual requesting the information;
 - `(C) the request for the information is based on a misrepresentation of fact by the individual requesting the information relevant to the request for information; or
 - `(D) the information requested is Internet navigational data or similar information about a person's visit to a website or online service.